

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, November 1, 2004

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, November 1, 2004, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Vice Chair Sandy Kane
Brian Rolston
Councilmember Susan Horne

Ann Bollinger
Terry Elvers
Richard Nemetz

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Mike Bomgardner
Nick Colonna

Ad Hoc Southwest Committee Members Present

Dawn Barrett Kimberly Berkey James Dennison
Ann Jones Al Lewis

Citizens Present

Craig Lane

1. *Minutes:* On **motion** by Sandy Kane, **seconded** by Brian Rolston, the **minutes of the October 4, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved** as corrected to substitute “Southeast (SE)” for “Southwest (SW)” in item 14.
2. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment.
3. *Woodlea Manor, Greenway Farms and Bradfield Drive (Country Club Subdivision) Citizen Ad Hoc Committee:* Ad Hoc Committee members indicated that they had been unable to meet before the meeting. Liz Whiting noted that as an appointed committee of the Town Council, they would have to comply with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, chiefly relating to meeting in public, keeping minutes, giving notice of minutes and keeping records of correspondence such as email. After discussion, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to convene at 6:00 pm on evenings that the Standing Committee meets and Calvin Grow will be their staff liaison. Calvin Grow distributed a compilation of three sets of traffic counts including 1987 projections and 2004 studies. Calvin Grow will email the chart, since he was unable to provide color copies. Calvin Grow also has been assembling data from police records regarding speed studies and traffic infractions/accidents, which he will distribute when it is completed. The Standing Committee urged the Ad Hoc Committee members to think big and develop a community-wide program of desired improvements, even if it likely will take multiple years to accomplish. The Residential Traffic Task Force Report, as amended by the Town Council in 2002, should be used as a guide, but the Ad Hoc Committee members will also be invited to join the Standing Committee on the Arlington field trip.

4. *Smart Trailer and selective enforcement reports:* Calvin Grow reported that Mark McCartney had a schedule conflict but may be able to join the meeting and report later.
5. *Parking lane installation on Catoctin Circle, S.W.:* Mike Bomgardner reported that this work is scheduled for next week and confirmed that “school zone” is painted on the asphalt in both approaches to the school.
6. *Dodona Manor parking issues:* Brian Boucher, Zoning Administrator, reported that Dodona Manor had always been deemed a B-1 by-right use as a visitor’s center, a determination that predates his employment by the Town. To date, he has not seen proposed changes or construction that would trigger the need to submit a site plan, although Dodona Manor is required to obtain Board of Architectural Review (BAR) approval for most external changes, which they have faithfully done. Brian Boucher confirmed that certain construction projects likely would require changes to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but that would be handled by Loudoun County in the building permit process. Brian Boucher also noted that his jurisdiction as zoning administrator does not extend to activities in the public right-of-way, and the fact that buses bring visitors to Dodona Manor does not trigger the requirement that they be able to park them on-site. (The Committee acknowledged a parallel to the Leesburg Trolley making stops at various locations.) Brian Boucher noted that if the bus drivers abuse their stay in the street, it might be appropriate to call the police, especially since the neighbors have attempted to resolve this through conversations with Dodona Manor staff. The Committee thanked Brian Boucher for his report and Liz Whiting indicated she was confident that Gabe Kelemen would follow up with residents in the neighborhood.
7. *Historic District signs on Route 15 north of Town limits:* Mike Bomgardner reported that Marantha Edwards had an enthusiastic response from Don Patin at VDOT regarding installing clarifying signage to guide outlet mall traffic to the Route 15 Bypass rather than North King Street, but that nothing seems to happen. Mike Bomgardner will follow up with recommendations for working up the VDOT chain of command.
8. *Pedestrian crosswalk enforcement on West Market Street at Wirt and Liberty Streets:* Mark McCartney’s report will be carried over to the December meeting.
9. *LSRTC mid-year budget update:* Calvin Grow noted that requests are due in December. The Committee agreed it was appropriate to pursue funding to extend the Route 15 Bypass fence to the south, since the wire fence was cut soon after the steel fence was extended to the north. Staff will prepare an estimate for consideration at the December meeting.

10. *FY '05 Budget Recommendations:* (i) The Committee noted that they had approved engineering the Edwards Ferry Road, N.E./Plaza Street, N.E. “pinchpoint” improvements and haven’t given up partnering the Wayfinding signage project although Calvin Grow reported that Marantha Edwards indicated that the Wayfinding signage the Committee hoped to enhance with landscaping should be installed in the next three weeks and there are no associated landscaping improvements planned. Calvin Grow will check with Marantha Edwards as to whether there is any opportunity to add landscaping enhancements and with Nagi Elsewaissi as to whether such enhancements can be made without aggravating the drainage situation in the area. (ii) Calvin Grow presented materials dealing with signage Council member Bob Zoldos had suggested with the North King Street enhanced speeding penalties. The Committee agreed that acquiring movable signs would be a good idea, but they would prefer funding come from another source if possible. (iii) Liz Whiting reported Tom Mason’s request that the Committee consider funding up to \$20,000.00 to allow installation of the brick-imprint crosswalks in place of the white hash mark crosswalks throughout the Historic Downtown as part of the milling and paving project that won’t be completed until the Spring of 2005. Terry Elvers questioned the “residential” connection, but other members noted that there are secondary apartments above many of the Downtown shops and that the side streets intersecting Market and King Streets are heavily residential in nature. On **motion** by Sandy Kane, **seconded** by Brian Rolston, the Committee unanimously **endorsed using up to \$20,000.00 from FY '05 funds to the extent needed to allow the milling and paving project to substitute brick-imprint crosswalks throughout the Historic District.**
11. *Arlington County Field Trip:* Mike Bomgardner reported that he had contacted Jeff Sikes of Arlington County and was hoping to set up a visit. Susan Horne suggested that the Committee should visit the Clarendon area, as well, to view the results of redevelopment. Mike Bomgardner will email Committee members available dates and confirm with Arlington County. Ad Hoc Committee members will be invited. (NB: Calvin, I suggested at my last Council appearance that we would let Council members know of the field trip, too, in case any wanted to attend.)
12. *“Woonerf” report:* Mike Bomgardner reported that “woonerf” is a Dutch term (“street for living”) for space created to be shared by pedestrians, bicyclists and low-speed vehicles. Illustrative pictures Mike Bomgardner circulated looked like alley networks and seemed to be of limited transferability to Leesburg development patterns.
13. *Update of Residential Traffic Management Plan:* Liz Whiting suggested that this project await the results of the master-planning process initiated with the Ad Hoc Committee, but urged Committee members to keep this in the back of their minds.

14. *Committee member concerns:* Sandy Kane renewed her request for a report from the Police Department regarding illegal U-turns at the intersection of Sycolin Road, S.E. and the Route 7/Route 15 Bypass and moved to an inquiry as to whether the Committee should become involved in the major traffic issues facing the Town. The Committee consensus was that it would take on any non-residential traffic topic the Town Council might request—*e.g.*, weighing in on the design of pedestrian facilities in connection with planned road construction—but that with so many demands under their existing “charter” it would be wise not to reach out for more. As the meeting broke up, Susan Horne noted that the Town Council has a meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2004 revisiting Lowenbach subdivision street improvements and removal of barricades in that area. Members encouraged Susan Horne to ask for a referral to the Committee if she felt it would enhance the outcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, December 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.